

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested, for the rejection of the claims as unpatentable over MAUMY et al. in view of WILLI, or further in view of NOBLE. NOBLE may teach the feature for which it was cited; but as this feature does nothing to improve the rejection on the combination of WILLI and MAUMY, it is believed that NOBLE et al. need not be further discussed at this time.

The rejection falls down on the combination of MAUMY et al. and WILLI. Specifically, this groove 3 of MAUMY et al. cannot possibly be said to be a stud within the meaning of the present application. Instead, the stud of the present application, as claimed, is a fixed portion of the shell, and integral with the shell.

Moreover, the lining of the present invention is a cast polymer. See page 4, beginning in line 32, of our specification, for the disclosure of this. The projections and recesses of the lining of the shell of the present invention are so arranged that the lining is fixed within the shell. See page 5 of our specification, lines 11-29, as to this feature.

As is pointed out on page 5 of our specification, lines 33-37, the lining and the shell thus cannot move relative to each other and the erosion of the lining is thus prevented. Obviously, in a bodily implant, the erosion of the lining would

give rise to deleterious particles; but this is prevented by the construction of the present invention.

New claims 31-33 emphasize these latter aspects of the present invention.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Robert J. Patch/

Robert J. Patch, Reg. No. 17,355
209 Madison Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

RJP/mjr